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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the above application. Claims 4-5 have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice, and Claims 8-13 have been amended for the purposes of renumbering. Applicants respectfully request substantive examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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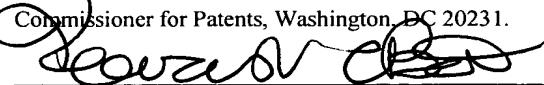
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Keowanna V.C. Best
Date : July 19, 2001

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4. (Amended) A Method according [to any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the solid porous particles are kieselguhr or perlite particles or mixtures thereof.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the solid porous particles are diatomaceous earth particles.

[8.] 7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 6 microns.

[9.] 8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pore size is in the range 0.6 to 1.5 microns.

[10.] 9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the depth filter has a thickness of 2 to 5 mm.

[11.] 10. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the natural product is a protein.

[12.] 11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous liquid comprises a blood plasma product.

[13.] 12. (Amended) A method according to [claim 12] claim 11 wherein the blood plasma product is selected from the group consisting of albumin, an immunoglobulin, Factor IX, thrombin, fibronectin, fibringen, Factor VIII, Factor II, Factor VII, Factor IX, [or] and Factor X.